

BRIEFS



MARTIN JOINS SIBBALD ASSOC.

ST. LOUIS — Randall Martin, long-time businessman and green committee chairman, has joined John Sibbald Associates, a 23-year-old search firm specializing in recruiting superintendents, general managers and golf professionals for private clubs. Martin is former green committee chairman at Algonquin Golf Club in St. Louis and current chairman at Crystal Downs Country Club in Northern Michigan. He can be reached at 616-352-9421.



Randall Martin

ENVIRONMENTAL GOLF ADDS PAIR



Eric Bescoby



John McNair

CALABASAS, Calif. — Environmental Golf has appointed Eric Bescoby director of golf course maintenance and John McNair director of golf management. Bescoby, formerly director of Rain Bird's golf division, will manage the business unit dedicated to golf course maintenance at current courses and seek to increase overall business. McNair, formerly general manager of Environmental Golf's Cherokee Run Golf Club in Conyers, Ga., will oversee golf course operations and the development of new management services.

CMAA CONFERENCE SET

SAN FRANCISCO — The Club Managers Association of America will hold its 72nd World Conference on Club Management and 22nd Annual Exposition in San Francisco from Feb. 28 through March 4. Approximately 90 conference sessions will focus on a variety of topics. For more information contact 703-739-9500.

GOLF TRUST BUYS COOKS CREEK

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Golf Trust of America has closed its acquisition of Cooks Creek Golf Course, an 18-hole upscale, public facility located in Ashville, Ohio, near Columbus, for \$6.1 million. The course will be leased to Cook/Rainieri Management.

Getting right to the heart of the matter

A little forethought can help emergency personnel save a life

By MARK LESLIE

LOMPOC, Calif. — After Village Country Club lost one member to a heart attack while on the course, and another collapsed from allergic reaction to a bee sting on the 8th green, the president and superintendent had an idea that many courses across the country might copy.

They labeled all perimeter out-of-bounds posts with the street address of the nearest house. Therefore, if an ambulance needs to be called, by cellular phone or radio, life-saving time can be saved.

"With a membership whose average age is 65, we need to minimize medical emergency response time," said superintendent Bob Taeger.

"Hopefully, the plan will never be needed. But, if an emergency does occur, the few minutes saved locating the emergency site will minimize the injury."



The street address of the house in the background is posted on this out-of-bounds marker at Village CC to help emergency vehicles quickly locate an injured golfer.

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Automated external defibrillators: standard equipment for courses?

By DOROTHY NELSON STOOKEY

Without warning, while enjoying a round of golf, an elderly man with no known heart disease collapses from sudden cardiac arrest. Fire department personnel respond in less than eight minutes.

But they have no automated external defibrillator (AED). They initiate CPR. Twenty-two minutes later, paramedics arrive with a de-fibrillator to shock the man several times. But it's too late. He's dead.

I didn't write this scenario to scare golfers and course operators. In fact, I didn't write it. It's the first paragraph of an American Heart Association (AHA) pamphlet called "Cardiac Arrest and the Need for Early Defibrillation." The AHA is

leading a campaign to have AEDs installed in emergency service vehicles and public places, such as office buildings and sports arenas. Some country clubs and golf courses have bought

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ClubCorp, Golden Bear develop first joint golf project

DALLAS — ClubCorp and Golden Bear International—which recently formed a partnership to build, own and operate Jack Nicklaus signature courses worldwide—will develop their first joint venture project in Dahlenega, Ga., located an hour north of Atlanta.

The newly formed joint venture is developing the signature Nicklaus links and related club facilities at BirchRiver, a new mixed-use development. The new layout will be semi-private when it opens in the summer of 2000, with plans for it to become fully private as the BirchRiver community matures.

"We know this project at BirchRiver is only the beginning of a highly successful partnership," said Dave Richey, vice president of development at ClubCorp.

The new course will be situated in the Chestatee River valley, surrounded by mountain views and known for its past and present opportunities to pan for gold. The course will play across the river five times, and feature an island green. Other amenities will include a clubhouse, swimming pool, tennis court, pro shop, and dining facilities.

"Over the years, we have teamed

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RCGA sells Glen Abbey to ClubLink

OAKVILLE, Ontario, Canada — The Royal Canadian Golf Association (RCGA) has reached an agreement to sell Glen Abbey Golf Club to ClubLink Corporation, setting the stage for RCGA growth and regionalization in Canada, according to Executive Director Stephen Ross.

The deal was expected to be completed and the purchase price announced by late January.

As part of the association's long-range plan, the RCGA is currently surveying properties in the Greater Toronto Area, Montreal and Calgary.

"We have taken the first step towards creating a new foundation for golf in

Canada," explains Ross. "This deal opens many doors of opportunity to further develop our grassroots initiatives, as well as develop new golf facilities, all focusing on enhancing support of the game across the country."

The RCGA has owned the Jack Nicklaus-designed Oakville layout since 1981, but the association's desire to geographically expand and continue to develop its member programs resulted in this decision.

Contributing factors to the sale of Glen Abbey included:

- the RCGA's plan to increase its pres-

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Rolling Hills Golf Club in Davie, Fla., the course where the movie "Caddyshack" was filmed, was recently purchased and renovated by Wayne Huizenga's Florida Panthers Holdings. See story on page 1.

Glen Abbey

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ence across Canada to help develop the game;

- RCGA's future plans to develop three multi-course golf facilities that will each support a championship stadium-style course, teaching complex and nine-hole Future Links short course;

- RCGA's desire to further develop and expand its core programs, such as its junior golf initiative, Future Links, presented by Mackenzie Financial Corp.

Notable terms of the agreement:

- all of Glen Abbey's staff will continue as ClubLink employees;

- the arrangement includes 240 acres of land, all equipment and facilities;

- the RCGA will lease Golf House — RCGA offices located on the grounds of Glen Abbey — and the Leonard E. Shore Building (home of the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame) until 2003;

- the Bell Canadian Open will be played a minimum of four times at Glen Abbey through 2009, a minimum of one time from 2010-2014, and a minimum of one time from 2015-2019. Glen Abbey will be leased at market rates for this purpose (the RCGA will work in co-operation with Bell Canada to determine other possible venues);

- the RCGA has the opportunity to host the Bell Canadian Open at other ClubLink facilities for the next 21 years;

- good faith negotiations between the RCGA and ClubLink regarding other partnership opportunities, including Future Links junior golf initiatives, teaching academies, environmental research projects and potential joint initiatives regarding golf facility development, ownership and operation.

The Royal Canadian Golf Association, the governing body of men's amateur golf in Canada, determines national policies and standards relating to the game on behalf of its more than 282,000 members.

ClubCorp

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with ClubCorp on several notable projects, such as the Jack Nicklaus/Jack Nicklaus II signature course at the Aspen Glen Club (Colo.), the Golf Club at Indigo Run on Hilton Head Island (S.C.), and the Melrose Course at Daufuskie Island Club & Resort (S.C.)," said Ira Fenton, president of Golden Bear Financial Services.

The BirchRiver community is being developed by Habersham Investment & Developer Corp., an Atlanta-based residential and mixed-use developer, in partnership with Owens Valley Farm, L.P.

Family Golf adds four to stable

MELVILLE, N.Y. — Family Golf Centers, Inc. has acquired four golf facilities: Timber Ridge Golf Club in Kansas City, Mo.; Coyote Creek Golf Club in Vancouver, Canada; Douglassdale Golf Club in Calgary, Canada; and Pine Canyon Golf Center in Voorhees, N.J. The company also has leased two golf

centers: Golf Dome in Markham, Ontario, Canada and Cal State Golf Center in Sacramento, Calif.

In addition, Family Golf Centers has signed letters of intent to acquire three golf facilities: the 82nd Avenue Golf Center in Portland, Ore.; El Cajon Golf Center in San Diego, Calif.; and Fore Seasons Golf Dome in

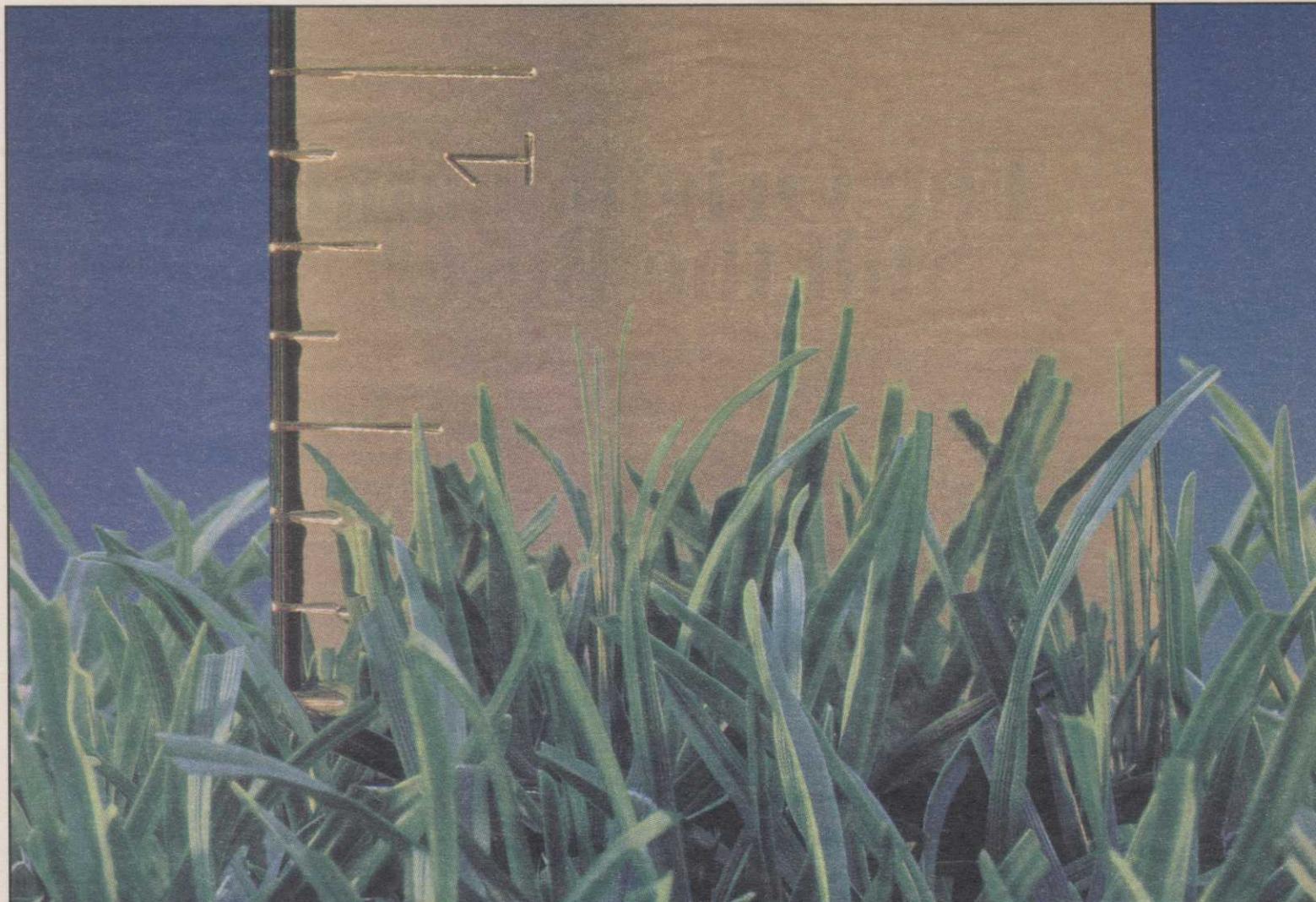
Thunder Bay, Ontario. The company expects to close these transactions shortly.

Dominic Chang, chairman and CEO of Family Golf Centers, said, "With these new acquisitions — four of which were initiated by our Eagle Quest subsidiary — we already have exceeded our goal of operating 115 golf facilities by the end of 1998.

The company also reported

the opening of two newly-constructed facilities: Family Golf Center at CB Smith Park in Pembroke Pines, Fla., and Sports Plus, an ice-skating, golf and family-entertainment super center in Englewood, Colo.

The Englewood skating facility will be the official training site of the Colorado Avalanche, the National Hockey League franchise.



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